

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 2, 2004. Claims 1, 3-6, 10-20, 31, 33-36, and 40-48 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 11, 31, 41, 43, and 45 are in independent form. Claims 2, 7-9, 21-30, 32, and 37-39 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 3, 11, 12, 14-16, 18, 31, 34-36, and 41 have been amended as to matters of form. Claims 43-48 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Favorable reconsideration is requested. The canceled claims will not be further addressed herein.

Claims 1, 3, 11-13, 31, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,353,484 (*Kurachi*), and Claims 4-6, 10, 14-20, 34-36, and 40-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kurachi*, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,570,605 (*Kashiwazaki*).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of Claims 1, 3-6, 10-20, 31, 33-36, and 40-42 for the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is an information processing apparatus.¹ The apparatus includes first storage means for storing job information relating to output jobs within an output apparatus in a first storage area, and second storage means for storing job information relating to output jobs within an output control apparatus for transferring

¹In one embodiment, the apparatus includes, for example, a CPU 21, RAM 23, HD 24, job-information-synthesis control unit 211 and job-information-display control unit 29 of print server 2001, or personal computer 3000. It is to be understood, of course, that the claim scope is not limited by the details of the described embodiments, which are referred to only to facilitate explanation.

an output job to the output apparatus in a second storage area. The apparatus also includes display control means for displaying a list of the job information relating to the output jobs within the output apparatus and the job information relating to the output jobs within the output control apparatus on a display unit, based on the job information stored in the first storage area and the job information stored in the second storage area.

Kurachi relates to a print managing system for managing print data sent from client apparatuses to a printing apparatus through a network. Each client apparatus generates print data and sends the print data to the printing apparatus, which receives the print data and manages the print data as a print job. The printing apparatus produces a rough image on the basis of the print data. When the printing apparatus receives a request signal from the client apparatuses, the printing apparatus sends print job information which includes management information of the print job and the rough image correlated with the print data corresponding to the print job to the client apparatuses. The client apparatuses then display the received print job information.

The Office Action appears to assert that *Kurachi* teaches second storage means for storing job information relating to output jobs within an output control apparatus for transferring an output job to the output apparatus in a second area, and cites column 2, lines 41-50, as support thereof. Applicant disagrees with this understanding of *Kurachi*. The cited reference merely describes that the printing apparatus of the *Kurachi* system manages stored print data as a print job, receives a request signal from each client apparatus, and sends print job information to each of the client apparatuses. *Kurachi* fails to disclose or suggest that an information processing apparatus includes second storage means for storing job information relating to output jobs within an output control apparatus for transferring an output job to the output apparatus. In the *Kurachi* system, print job information of print jobs currently stored in a printing apparatus are sent to client

apparatuses for display. *Kurachi* also fails to disclose job information relating to output jobs within an output control apparatus for transferring an output job to the output apparatus, as recited in Claim 1. In fact, *Kurachi* is silent with respect to an output control apparatus. Furthermore, the only print job information displayed in the *Kurachi* system is print job information of print jobs already stored in the printing apparatus. For at least the above reasons, it is believed that *Kurachi* fails to disclose the second storage means of Claim 1, and therefore that claim is clearly patentable over *Kurachi*.

Independent Claims 11 and 31 are method and program claims respectively corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable over *Kurachi* for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 41 is a network system in which an output apparatus and an output control apparatus are interconnected via a network. The network system includes first storage means for storing job information relating to output jobs within an output apparatus in a first storage area, second storage means for storing job information relating to output jobs within an output control apparatus for transferring an output job to the output apparatus in a second storage area, and display control means for displaying a list of the job information relating to the output jobs within the output apparatus and the job information relating to the output jobs within the output control apparatus on a display unit, based on the job information stored in the first storage area and the job information stored in the second storage area. The system also includes instruction input means for accepting an instruction to change an output schedule of an output job selected on the display unit, command transmission means for determining whether the output job assigned by the instruction is within the output apparatus or within the output control apparatus, and transmitting a change command to the output apparatus or the output control

apparatus based on a result of the determination, first change means for changing an output schedule of the output job within the output apparatus in accordance with the change command transmitted from said command transmission means, and second change means for changing an output schedule of the output job within the output control apparatus in accordance with the change command transmitted from said command transmission means.

For reasons discussed above in connection with Claim 1, nothing has been found in *Kurachi* that would teach or suggest a network system that includes second storage means for storing job information relating to output jobs within an output control apparatus for transferring an output job to the output apparatus. As discussed above, *Kurachi* also fails to disclose job information relating to output jobs within an output control apparatus for transferring an output job to the output apparatus, as recited in Claim 41.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 41 is clearly patentable over *Kurachi*, taken alone.

Kashiwazaki relates to a print control apparatus capable of analyzing a print job received from an upper apparatus and generating print data suitable for printing. In the *Kashiwazaki* system, a user can interrupt a print job, change the sheet discharge method and sheet discharge unit for the print job, so that the output of the interrupted print job is not mixed with the output of other print jobs.

The Office Action cites *Kashiwazaki* as remedying the deficiencies of *Kurachi*. However, nothing has been found in *Kashiwazaki* that would teach or suggest a network system that includes second storage means for storing job information relating to output jobs within an output control apparatus for transferring an output job to the output apparatus, and job information relating

to output jobs within an output control apparatus for transferring an output job to the output apparatus, as recited in Claim 41.

Therefore, even if *Kurachi*. and *Kashiwazaki* were to be combined in the manner proposed in the Office Action, assuming such combination would even be permissible, the resulting combination also would fail to teach or suggest at least those features of Claim 41.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 41 is clearly patentable over *Kurachi* and *Kashiwazaki*, whether considered separately or in combination.

Additionally, independent 43 and 45 include similar features as discussed above in connection with Claim 41, and in particular job information relating to output jobs within an output control apparatus for transferring an output job to the output apparatus. Accordingly, Claims 43 and 45 are believed to be patentable over *Kurachi* and *Kashiwazaki*, whether considered separately or in combination, for reasons substantially similar as those discussed above in connection with Claim 41.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

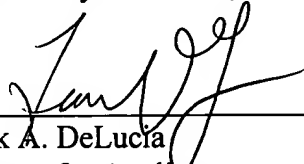
In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

This application has received an Office Action on the merits but has not yet received either a final action or a Notice Of Allowance. Accordingly, this Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and is accompanied by the \$180.00 fee specified at 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). Consideration of the art cited herein is accordingly deemed proper, and such action is respectfully requested. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

CONCLUSION

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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